AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

1.–55. (Cancelled)

56.   (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

    receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein

        said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame,

        said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and

        said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;

    relocating existing network management information of said second frame from a set of

        byte locations of said second frame to another set of byte locations of said second

        frame;

    relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first

        frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame;

    cross-connecting said time slots;

    selecting at least one of said time slots;

    receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;

    sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;

    randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and

    outputting said outgoing time slots.

57. – 59. (Cancelled)

60.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising:

    extracting said network management information; and

    routing said network management information.

61.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein said cross-connecting comprises said selecting said at least one of said time slots.

62.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

    means for receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein

        said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame, said second frame is

            received subsequently to said first frame, and

        said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;

    means for relocating existing network management information of said second frame

        from a set of byte locations of said second frame to another set of byte locations

        of said second frame;

    means for relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations

        of said first frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame;

    means for cross-connecting said time slots;

    means for selecting at least one of said time slots;

    means for receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;

    means for sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;

    means for randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers;

        and

    means for outputting said outgoing time slots.

63.–65. (Cancelled)

66.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:

    means for extracting said network management information; and

    means for routing said network management information.

67.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein said means for cross-connecting comprises said means for selecting.

68.   (Currently Amended) A program on a computer readable medium product comprising:

    a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to receive a

        plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame,

said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;

a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to relocate network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame;

a third set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to cross-connect said time slots;

a fourth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select at least one of said time slots;

a fifth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to receive a plurality of incoming time slots;

a sixth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to sequentially write said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;

a seventh set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to randomly read a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; ~~and~~

an eighth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to output said outgoing time slots; and

computer readable storage media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in said computer readable storage media.

69–71. (Cancelled)

72.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] <u>The</u> program ~~on a computer-readable medium product~~ <u>of claim 68, further</u> comprising:

a ninth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to extract said network management information; and

a tenth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select at least one of said time slots.